

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 L-02 OES-04 ACDA-10 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00

/060 W

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R 111222Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO AEC GERMANTOWN 1353

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7765

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 8766

PASS TO H.BROWN, DR; R.P. DENISE, L:TR; A.S. FRIEDMAN, DIP,
E.E. KINTNER, RRD; H.C. KOUTS, RSR; G. MERCER, RRD;
L.M. MUNTZING, DR; AND T.NEMZEK, RRD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: PFR STATUS

1. THE BRITISH PRESS REPORTED EARLY LAST WEEK THAT THE 250 MWE
PFR WOULD GO ON LINE WITHIN DAYS. ACCORDINGLY, AEC/BRUSSELS
CONTACTED SQUIRE DAVEY, CHIEF ENGINEER, PFR, RISLEY, ON FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 8, TO DISCUSS PRFR COMMISSIONING PROGRESS.

2. DAVEY REPORTED THAT COUPLING OF THE PFR TO THE NORTH OF
SCOTLAND ELECTRICITY BOARD'S ELECTRICAL GRID WAS INDEED IMMINENT,
BUT PETTY PROBLEMS WERE CONTINUING TO CAUSE DELAYS. WE PRE-
VIOUSLY REPORTED THAT CONDENSOR INTAKES HAD BECOME CLOGGED WITH SEA-
WEED. TWO ADDITIONAL STORMS IN THE PAST MONTH HAVE AGAIN
CAUSED SEAWEED TO CLOG THE INTAKE SCREENS NECESSITATING TWO
SEPARATE SUSPENSIONS OF STEAM GENERATOR COMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES.
AS ONLY 20 PERCENT POWER IS NEEDED FOR COUPLING TO THE GRID, IT
IS NOW PLANNED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WITH ONE LOOP OPERATION. ONE
EQUIVALENT SECONDARY CIRCUIT WILL BE EMPLOYED CONSISTING OF THE
SUPERHEATER AND REHEATER OF THE NUMBER ONE LOOP AND THE EVAPORATOR
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OF THE NUMBER THREE LOOP.

3. THE LEAK IN THE NUMBER TWO EVAPORATOR, REPORTED IN EC CABLE 8075, HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY PRE-SSURIZING THE WATER SIDE WITH 50 PSI "DAMP" ARGON (THE SODIUM SIDE DESIGN PRESSURE IS 4.5 ATMOSPHERE) WHILE MAINTAINING THE SODIUM TEMPERATURE AT 300 DEGREE C. HYDROGEN EVOLUTION OCCURRED, ESTIMATED AS GENERATED FROM A CRACK OF THE ORDER OF 0.001 INCH. FURTHERMORE, AFTER THE PRESSURE WAS INCREASED TO 100 PSI AND THEN THE SYSTEM PRESSURE RELIEVED, THE SODIUM LEVEL WENT DOWN. A CHANGE IN LEVEL ALSO OCCURRED WHEN HELIUM PRESSURE WAS APPLIED TO THE SODIUM SIDE. PLANS CALL FOR LOCATING THE FAULT BY REMOVING THE TOP OF THE EVAPORATOR AND ACOUSTICALLY PROBING EACH OF THE TUBES UNTIL THE LEAK IS DETECTED. THE SODIUM TEMPERATURE WILL BE MAINTAINED AT 300 DEGREES C AND PROTECTED BY FLOWING HELIUM.

4. ALTHOUGHT THE PFR MAY GO ON LINE THIS WEEK, FULL POEER OPERATION IS NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL FEBRUARY 1975. OUR MEMO, FAST REACTOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE UK, DATED JUNE 19, 1974, DESCRIBED THE UNSATISFACTORY CONDITION RELATING TO INSUFFICIENT COOLING CAPACITY FOR THE REACTOR ROOF STRUCTURE. ALL THE ADDITIONAL FANS AND HEAT EXCHANGERS NEEDED TO AUGMENT THE EXISTING CAPABILITY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED AND POSITIONED. TESTING IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY LATE DECEMBER. MEASUREMENTS TO CONFIRM THE ADEQUACY OF THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE MADE IN JANUARY.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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